

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is requested in view of the comments and amendments made herein.

Claims 18, 20, and 24 are amended. Claim 21 is cancelled. Claims 25-29 are added.

Initially, Applicant would especially like to thank the Examiner for the time spent in a telephone interview on January 4, 2011. No exhibits were shown. Specifically, the Examiner's interpretation of the cited references Kim, Johnson et al., and Imai et al. were discussed. The Examiner explained that the claimed "replaceable component (8)" should be separate from the tub, and that the phrase "fixed replaceably" should include some structure. Accordingly, the amended claims are now considered to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If the Examiner determines that the claims are still not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below to expedite prosecution.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 USC 112 as being allegedly indefinite, and claim 24 is now amended as per the Examiner's recommendations. Accordingly, claim 24 is considered to be in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the objection is warranted.

Claims 18 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being unpatentable over Kim (2005/0150528). Claim 18 now states, *inter alia*, "A liquid-bearing domestic appliance comprising a dishwasher with a rinsing tub, the appliance comprising a sieve system (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3) and/or a filter (3, 7, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3) which is provided with at least one antibiotic agent provided inside an area of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance." Claim 18 further states "the appliance further comprising a replaceable component (8) which comprises said at least one antibiotic agent inside or on its surface and which can be fixed replaceably inside the sump, outlet, and/or outlet tube of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance." See page 11 of the specification and Figs. 2-5. Kim does not disclose such structure.

Instead, as discussed during the telephone interview, Kim merely teaches a dishwasher that provides an antibiotic agent (e.g., silver) that is molded into the plastic resin of the sidewalls of the wash tub 12. See paragraphs [0035] and [0067]. Kim does not teach, in any manner, a replaceable component (8) that comprises at least one antibiotic agent inside or on its surface and which can be fixed replaceably inside the sump, outlet, and/or outlet tube of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance. Moreover, Kim does not teach a replaceable component (8) that is separate

from the rinsing tub and that is replaceably fixed within the dishwasher, so that the replaceable component (8) can be quickly and easily replaced by the end user when the antibiotic agent is used up or the amount of antibiotic has been insufficient.

For at least the reasons above, Kim does not disclose all of the recited features of claim 18 as is required by law to support a rejection under 35 USC 102(b). Accordingly, claims 18, 20 and 22-32 are considered to be in condition for allowance (claim 21 is cancelled). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 18 and 21-24 were rejected as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (US 2004/0159337) in view of Imai et al. (JP 05-111451). The rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Johnson does not propose to use, or even mention, any antibiotic agent whatsoever in any component of a dishwasher. Indeed, the Examiner expressly admits this on page 5 of the Office action. Further, Johnson does not teach any part of a dishwasher wash chamber wherein stagnant water remains after drainage. Johnson only mentions forming the integral bottom, side, rear and top walls by injection molding a plastic material. See paragraph [0031].

Imai merely teaches a dishwasher that provides an antibiotic agent (e.g., silver, copper, or zinc ions) that is molded into the plastic resin of the sidewalls of the wash tub. Imai does not teach any part of a dishwasher wash chamber wherein stagnant water remains after drainage.

Instead, as discussed during the telephone interview, Johnson and Imai do not teach, in any manner, a replaceable component (8) that is separate from the rinsing tub and arranged inside an area of the dishwasher that contains stagnant water after drainage. Moreover, Johnson and Imai do not teach a replaceable component (8) that is replaceably fixed within the dishwasher, so that the replaceable component (8) can be quickly and easily replaced by the end user when the antibiotic agent is used up or the amount of antibiotic has been insufficient.

For at least the reasons above, Johnson does not disclose the recited features of amended claim 18. Imai fails to make up for any of the aforementioned deficiencies of Johnson. And thus, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated by the proposed combination to formulate the structure of amended claim 18. For at least these reasons, the cited references fail to disclose or render obvious each and every feature set forth in claim 18, as is required by law to support a rejection under 35 USC 103(a). The proposed combination of Johnson and Imai cannot render claim 18 obvious, or any of the claims that depend therefrom. Accordingly, claims 18, 20, and

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22-32 are considered to be in condition for allowance (claim 21 is cancelled). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 25-32 are added. Support can be found in the original specification as filed on at least page 11 and Figs. 2-5. Accordingly, claims 25-32 are considered to be in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. AEG-40435.

Respectfully submitted,
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